

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 251840Z APR 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

S E C R E T USNATO 2315

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO DEPT OF DEFENSE, USNMR SHAPE AND USCINCEUR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: PROCEEDING IN NATO WITH OPTION III

REF: A. STATE 91705; B. USNATO 1967 DTG 101700Z APR 75 (NOTAL)

1. AMBASSADOR BRUCE MET ON APRIL 24 WITH PERMREPS OF FRG (KRAPF) AND UK (PECK) ABOUT MODALITIES FOR HANDLING OPTION III WITHIN THE ALLIANCE.

2. AMBASSADOR BRUCE DESCRIBED U.S. APPROACH PER REF A AS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE FOR EXPEDITIOUS AND FULL CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED. HE NOTED THAT THE U.S. DESIRE TO LIMIT THE FORUMS TO NAC AND SPC, AND TO HAVE SPC MEETINGS REINFORCED BY EXPERTS FROM CAPITALS, WAS IN LINE WITH THIS OBJECTIVE.

3. KRAPF SAID THAT U.S. VIEWS ON MODALITIES CORRESPONDED EXACTLY TO WHAT FRG HAD IN MIND. PECK THOUGHT THE U.S. APPROACH WAS A GOOD ONE. HE ASSUMED THAT THE U.S. WOULD PROPOSE THAT MC REP AT THE NAC MADE THE REQUEST TO SACEUR FOR UPDATE OF SHAPE ASSESSMENT, SINCE MC REP WAS NORMAL CHANNEL FOR SUCH A REQUEST. HE WISHED TO REPORT THE U.S. VIEWS TO LONDON, AND  
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SUGGESTED ANOTHER MEETING OF OFFICERS FROM THE THREE DELEGATIONS ON THIS MATTER ON TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY OF NEXT WEEK. HE SAID NOTHING ABOUT AN MBFR WORKING GROUP ROLE ON OPTION III. KRAPF AND PECK BOTH EXPRESSED HOPE THAT U.S. WOULD BE ABLE TO INTRODUCE

OPTION III INTO THE NAC PRIOR TO THE MINISTERIALS (I.E. PRIOR TO MAY 22-23 DPC MINISTERIAL) IN ORDER TO HEAD OFF INQUIRIES AND REQUESTS BY MINISTERS OF OTHER COUNTRIES RE OPTION III.

4. COMMENT: MISSION ASSUMES THAT WHEN THE U.S. PROPOSES IN NAC AN UPDATE OF SHAPE ASSESSMENT, THE U.S. WILL PROPOSE THAT MC CHAIRMAN MAKE THE REQUEST TO SHAPE. THIS WAS THE MISSION'S RECOMMENDATION IN REF B, IS NORMAL PROCEDURE, AND IS THE WAY THE ORIGINAL SHAPE ASSESSMENT WAS HANDLED. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION THAT THIS IS HOW U.S. INTENDS TO PROCEED.

5. IN ADDITION, MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WASHINGTON'S THINKING ON WHETHER THE SPC MEETINGS REINFORCED BY EXPERTS WOULD, IN ADDITION TO CONSIDERING POLICY ISSUES AND GUIDANCE TO AHG, WORK ON A WRITTEN, AGREED ALLIED MILITARY-TECHNICAL ANALYSIS. MISSION IN PARA 5, REF B CONSIDERED THAT AN UP-DATING OF SHAPE ASSESSMENT, COUPLED WITH PRESENCE OF EXPERTS FROM CAPITALS IN SPC, WOULD HELP OBTAIN NEED FOR SUCH A WRITTEN ANALYSIS ALTOGETHER, AND NOT JUST IN THE MBFR WORKING GROUP. WE CAN EXPECT, WITH NO MBFR WORKING GROUP ROLE, THAT ONE OR ANOTHER ALLY WILL SUGGEST THAT THE SPC REINFORCED BY EXPERTS UNDERTAKE SUCH AN ANALYSIS. IN OUR VIEW, AN AGREED, WRITTEN, ALLIED MILITARY-TECHNICAL ANALYSIS IS NOT NECESSARY FOR THE EXPERTS ATTENDING SPC MEETINGS TO EDUCATE POLICY LEVEL OFFICIALS ON THE ISSUES INVOLVED. FURTHERMORE, ONCE SUCH AN ANALYSIS WERE BEGUN, IT COULD TEND TO SHIFT THE FOCUS OF SPC WORK TO THE DRAFTING OF THE ANALYSIS, AND AWAY FROM POLICY ISSUES AND GUIDANCE TO THE AHG. THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE ANY AGREED MILITARY-TECHNICAL ANALYSIS MAY HAVE ARISEN IN SOME FORM AT THE TRILATERALS. IN ANY EVENT, THE QUESTION WILL EVENTUALLY ARISE HERE, AND MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WASHINGTON VIEW.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: AS DESCRIBED IN PRECEDING TWO PARAGRAPHS.  
BRUCE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES. SECRET  
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